

Dante Society Newsletter

Volume 6, Number 1

November 1999

Letter from the President

This has been a busy season for the Dante Society. First of all, as you know, we will be celebrating Dante in proper millennium-marking fashion at our first ever conference, *Dante2000*, to be held at Columbia University's Italian Academy from April 7-9 of 2000. Preparations for this event are nearly complete. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our chief sponsor, The Italian Academy for Advanced Study in America, its Director, Professor Richard Brilliant, and its staff, especially Kathleen Madden, the Program Coordinator. Without them this great celebration could not take place. My thanks also to the other donors whose gifts have helped make this event possible: Department of Italian, Yale University; Dean of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Fordham University; The William and Katherine Devers Program in Dante Studies, University of Notre Dame; Department of Italian and Casa Italiana Zerilli-Marimò, New York University; Department of Italian, Columbia University. Finally, I would like personally to thank the colleagues who solicited their institutions on our behalf: Professor Giuseppe Mazzotta of Yale, Professor Wayne Storey of Fordham, and Professor Ted Cachey of Notre Dame.

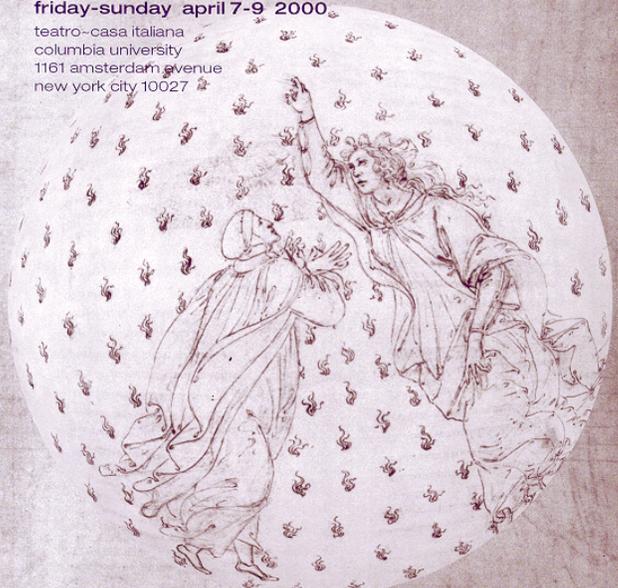
Another important milestone for the Dante Society is the transfer of our journal *Dante Studies*—the jewel in our crown—to Fordham University Press. We are delighted to enter into partnership with Fordham University, an educational institution deeply committed to medieval studies and humanistic values. By virtue of its historical interests and commitments, Fordham University Press, which also publishes *Traditio*, understands the issues faced by a journal like *Dante Studies* and will be well equipped to handle them. We look forward to a long and productive future together. Please make sure that *your* institution subscribes to *Dante Studies*!

Also with respect to our journal, we are pleased to announce that the millennial issue of *Dante Studies* will be a retrospective issue devoted to the "Top Ten" essays published over the last century. In the spirit of *terza rima*, we will look back before moving forward, casting a nostalgic and appreciative glance at our past before embracing the future. Finally, let me announce that the May meeting of the Society will take place on May 13-14 (Saturday-Sunday) in Cambridge. Rather than a lecture, this year will boast a panel, comprised of the Society's Councillors and Editors, which will debate the "Top Ten" choices for the 2000 volume of *Dante Studies*. Please bring your choices along to the meeting, or, if you are not able to attend, send them to me or to our Secretary-Treasurer, Richard Lansing. While we promise not to be driven by polls, the views of our membership should certainly guide us as we make this momentous decision!

the italian academy for advanced studies in america at columbia university
and the dante society of america
invite you to an international conference

DANTE2000

friday-sunday april 7-9 2000
teatro-casa italiana
columbia university
1161 amsterdam avenue
new york city 10027



reservations are necessary to attend this conference
for more information
www.columbia.edu/cu/casaitaliana

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Spring Election Results

The newly elected Council members for the term 1999-2002 are Steven Botterill and Nancy Vickers. Richard Lansing was returned to the office of Secretary-Treasurer. During the early months of summer H. Wayne Storey was elected Vice President of the Society by the Council, for a term of one year.

The Winter Meeting of the Dante Society

The Dante Society will meet in conjunction with the MLA Convention in Chicago on Sunday, December 27, from 7:00 - 8:15 p.m., in the Arkansas Room of the Sheraton Hotel. Christian Robert Moevs, University of Notre Dame, will speak on the topic "*Paradiso* 29.1-48: Where and When the World Was Created, and How." A joint Cash Bar reception co-sponsored by the Dante Society and the American Boccaccio Association will take place on Tuesday evening, December 29, from 5:15-6:30 p.m., in the Columbus A and B Rooms of the Sheraton Hotel. Everyone is invited to attend.

Dante Studies

The 1997 volume (CXV) of *Dante Studies* has been printed and should reach members by the end of this November. The volume for 1998 will be sent to Fordham University Press around the first of December and should be out by March 2000, in time for the *Dante2000* conference at Columbia University. We plan to send the 1999 volume to the Press in mid-January, 2000, for distribution to the membership in May. In addition to a number of fine essays from contributors from both sides of the Atlantic, the 1998 issue will contain a series of tributes by friends and colleagues to honor the memory of Charles T. Davis, who served as President of the Society from 1991 to 1997. This issue will also pay tribute to other distinguished *dantisti* who passed away in 1998: Joseph Anthony Mazzeo and Tibor Wlassics.

Essay Prize Winners for 1999

The Dante Prize for the best undergraduate essay was awarded to Stephen E. Sachs, of Harvard University, for his essay "The Well-Nurtured Soul: Freedom, Dependence, the Pilgrim and His Guides." There was no award in the graduate category. Alison Cornish (chair) and Steven Botterill served as Prize Committee readers.

New guidelines for Essay Prizes

At its fall meeting in New York City, the Council of the Society took several decisions aimed at stimulating interest in its two annual student essay prizes, and at encouraging the submission of entries from institutions that have not participated in the competition in recent years. The Charles Hall Grandgent award (for graduate students) will henceforth be five hundred dollars, while the Dante Prize (for undergraduates) will be two hundred and fifty dollars. Each award also carries a year's free membership in the Society. In addition, the deadline for submission of entries has been moved to June 30th, in the hope of allowing instructors in year-long and Spring-semester courses to identify promising candidates well in advance of the competition's closing date, as was not always possible with the former (March) deadline. The Council hopes that these changes will be welcomed by the membership, and urges members currently teaching courses on Dante actively to encourage their most gifted and promising students to consider entering the competition. Awards will be announced in the fall issue of the Newsletter. The new guidelines and instructions on submission of essays will be announced in forthcoming issues of *Dante Studies* and can currently be reviewed at the Society's website.

Council Members, 1999-2000

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Richard Lansing, Secretary-Treasurer
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Laurie Shepard

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Dante Society Newsletter

The Newsletter is published twice each year (November and April) by the Dante Society of America and distributed to members of the Society. Please send material for publication to the Editor, Richard Lansing, by e-mail at lansing@brandeis.edu.

The Dante Society of America
Brandeis University, MS 024
P.O. Box 9110
Waltham MA 02454-9110

The Society's website, DanteNet, is at:
www.princeton.edu/~dante

Deadlines:
October 31 and March 31